¶. A notable example of Gods vengeance, vppon a murdering king. Written in Latine by Martine Cromer the writer of the hiſtorie of Polonia, and is to be founde in the xxxvii. page of the ſayde hiſtorie as it was printed at Baſile by Oporine in the yeare of our Lorde 1555. wyth Charles the Emperours priuilege. Truely tranſlated according to the Latine.

K.

39. b. 3. 8.

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After the Funerall solemnities of Popiel ended, his sonne of the same name, being vnder age, was with the vniforme assent of his vncles and of the nobilitie, set in possession of the kingdome, they all by othe promising him their allegeance. The gouernaunce of the young kinges person, and the administration of the common weale was committed to certayne of his vncles that were thought most meete for it. They were continually in the Court, and euer at the Princes elbow. They heard and determined causes and controuersies, and did in no point leaue the common weale vnserued, vntill the kyng himselfe was hable in person to doe the publicke affayres, or at least so long as hee would suffer himselfe to bee gouerned by their aduises. For when he came to bee a stripling towarde mans estate, whiche is the most slipperie and inclining age to licentiousnesse and pleasures, hee beganne by and

by to liue after his owne fansie, to despise the admonitions of his vncles, to take counsell of young fellowes of hys owne yeares, and with such youthes to vse banquetinges and long large drinking feastes, to spend out whole nightes in brothelhouses, in daunsinges, in playes and dalliaunce with younge women: and then glutted with surfet and lecherie, to sleepe the most part of the day, to neglect the common weale and hearing of causes in iudgment, & poore mens sutes: hee became vnapte to any good actions, wilfulle, doltishe and blockishe, and so waxed contemptuous to all men, in so much as he was commonly in scorne called Choffek: beside that his dissolute and vile conditions were further encreased in deformitie with a thynne beare on his head and beard, such as commonly happeneth to vnchast persons. His vncles with the rest of the nobilitie consulted together how this dissolute life and desperate licentiousnesse of their Prince might bee reformed. They prouided him a wife, a very beautifull Mayde, the daughter of a Prince of Ducheland. And it seemed to them lykely

ly that shee a coueitous and ambitious woman, would haue reduced her husbandes lyfe to better temper from prodigalitie, and would haue shaken from the ruggithe dull beast his drowsinesse. But it happened otherwise, For hee both abated nothing of his former disorders and wickednesse: and such faultes as he before was free from, he now learned of his wife and added them to his other leudenesse. For both hee became more couetous, and solde iudgementes, honours and offices: and where he could not stablishe his kingdome by vertue & worthinesse, knowing himselfe so giltye of daily enormities, he laboured to atchieue it by pride and cruelitie, and coueted to be feared of his subiectes, when hee liued not to deserue to bee beloued. And all this hee did by prouocation of his wife: and shee taking the doing and profite into her owne hand. Shee hauing once tasted the swetenesse of dominion and gayne, and despising the base hart of her husbande, had by her womanishe craftines conueyed the whole gouernaunces to her selfe. And specially when shee hauing borne hym twoo sonnes,

Lechus, and Popielus, was once become a Queene mother, shee held the wanton weake hart of her husband fast bounde in awe of her loue, and so perswaded her selfe to make her authoritie in Poleland to stand firme and fast for euer.

One onely impediment stode in her way, namely, the fauour and credite of the kinges vncles among the communaltie, which they had attained by vprightnesse of life, grauitie, and wisedome. Them shee feared: them (for their sometime gentle admonitions, sometime free and playne rebukinges) shee deadly hated: Their very secret conscience shee stode in dread of. And therfore shee practised as much as shee could possibly, with fayned quarels to bring thē in suspition and hatred. Shee perswaded the king that while they were aliue and in safetye, his crowne should neuer sit assuredly and fast on his head. And if hee mynded to keepe it himselfe and leaue it to his children, he must needes dispatch his vncles out of the way. If he himselfe had not the courage to doe such an acte, shee bade him commit it to her to compasse

passe, saying, that though they passed her in armoure and true force, yet shee was better furnished then they wyth subtile inuentions. Shee promised to bring it about without any offence, yea or any suspicion of the people. Wyth which her persuasions shee easely drew to the worser part the feable and fearfull hart of her husband. Thus they entred into deuise for the murdering of hys Vncles. The king fayned himselfe to be greuously and daungerously sicke. Hys wyfe caused his vncles (whome shee had appointed to the slaughter) to be sent for in the kinges name. They came in hast, & in great heauines stode about the sicke kyng, & comforted him. Hee wyth groning fained himselfe to be very sore sick: hee tolde them that it was reueled to him from the Gods that the ende of hys life was at hand: he againe and agayne committed his wife and pore orpheine children to their trust and tuition.

All the court was filled wyth noyse of the Queenes womanishe howlyng, sobbing, and lamentations: preparation was made for the funerals by the kings owne commaundement. The day thus

ſpent, when it drewe towarde ſunne ſetting, the kyng as one euen preſently ready to dye minding to take his laſte leaue of his Vncles, ſpake to euery of them flatteringly by his name, and in token of his loue & good will toward them all, he commaunded to be brought a poiſoned cup of drinke which he had prepared for the ſame purpoſe. He fained himſelfe to drinke to them, but he onely blew away a litle of the frothe in the middeſt, and ſcarſely touched the drinke with the vttermoſt parte of his lippes. When they had all dronke and pledged him in order one after an other, hee fayned himſelfe to bee heauy and diſpoſed to ſleepe, and that he would fayne take ſome reſt. They reuerently toke their leaue of the kyng and departed. The poyſon once conceiued in their ſtomakes poſſeſſed their vitall partes, and forthwith they fell diſtraught of their wits, and raging with great torment fell down and died.

The Queene being immediatly informed thereof by her eſpialles, commanded the dead carcaſes of the noble men to be throwen abroad vnburyed, Shee

cauſed

caused it to be published by Proclamation, that they had cõspired against the life of ỹ king their kinsman & frende, whiche had so well deserued of them, and that they were therefore by the euydent vengeance of the Gods stricken with sodayne death. Although the blacke spottes of their bodies, and their bowels bursting and gushed out of their bellies gaue manifest proofe of poyson, yet for feare of the tyrant (which now no more fayned any sickenesse or feare of death) no man durst openly lamẽt so vnworthy deathes of the good noble men.

But the maiestye of God suffereth not such horrible factes to bée long vnpunished. For out of the putrified carcases came Rattes of monstrous bignesse, which pursued through fyre and water, which way soeuer he fled, the vnnaturall murderer, with his vile wife, and his children. No defences of dores and stoppes auayled him, nor no succour of his garde and seruauntes endeuors to driue them away. At the last, all persons flying from hym, his sonnes were first deuoured, and then his wife, and last of all himselfe vnhappy wreatch

was

was with painefull slow death miserably consumed in the Castell of Cruslwik. And so his owne fathers curse fell not in vayne vppon vym. This happened about the yeare of Christ eight hundred twentye and three.

¶ The ſame hiſtorie reported alſo by Munſter in the 895. Page of his Coſmographie in Latine. Wherein he not ſo largely declareth the treaſon, but more amply expreſſeth the vengeance of God in puniſhing thereof.

HE being left by his Father within age, his Vncles gouerned the kingdome, tyll he came to full age and maryed a wyfe. Afterwarde while he was ſitting at banquet, tipled with wine, bedecked with garlandes, ſmeared with oyntmentes, all diſſolute with ſurfet and royot, he was ſet vppon by exceeding great Mice that came out of the dead carcaſes of his Vncles, whome he and his wife had murdered by poiſon. They with furious eger byting aſſayled at his banquet the tyraunt and hys wyfe and children, his garde labouring in vayne

vayne to driue them away, because when the force and succour of men was tyred, the Mise continued day & nyght vnwearied. They made great rounde fieres, and within the compasse thereof they set Pompilius, and his wife and sonnes: but the Myse ran through the fire and ceased not to gnaw the vnnaturall murderer. At length they assayed an other element. They conueyed Pompilius the murderer of his Uncles, wyth his wife and children in shippes into the middest of a great lake: but the myse vncessantly folowed them, & eate through the bordes of the shippes, in so much that the water comming in at the holes, they were in danger of sinking, wherfore the Mariners fearing to be drowned, cõueyed the shippes to land, from whence an other company of myse ioyned wyth the first, and more fiercely assayled hym. They that defended him seing this, and acknowledging it to bee the vengeaunce of God fled away.

Pompilius destitute of his succours, withdrew hymselfe into an hye tower in Cruslwic, whether the Myse furi-

furiouſlye ranne and clymed vp, and conſumed and deuoured his two ſonnes, and hys wyfe, and wicked Pompilius himſelfe. Beholde there is no power nor counſell agaynſt the Lorde.